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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsuyoshi MAEDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 10/086,529

Examiner: Thoi V. Duong

Filed: March 4, 2002

Docket No.: 111974

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE, PROJECTION TYPE  
DISPLAY AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The July 30, 2003 Restriction Requirement asserts that two distinct embodiments are claimed, namely:

- I. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16 and 18-40; and
- II. Claims 2, 7, 15 and 17.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the above delineation of embodiments is erroneous. It is respectfully submitted that it is more accurate to separate the claims as follows:

- I. Claims 1, 10-12, 14, 16, 19-23, 27, 31 and 32;
- II. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9-12, 14-17, 28 and 31-33; and
- III. Claims 2, 8, 29 and 30.

In reply to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-40 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 29, 2003

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